United Nations S/2018/334

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 11 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 10 to 11 April 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (10 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Dar'a Governorate and one in Homs Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,779 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,508.4 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 182 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 76,811 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Humayrah in Aleppo Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,500.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (11 April 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Dar'a Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out three humanitarian operations: in Mu'ah, Hama Governorate; Kiswah, Rif Dimashq Governorate; and Tall al-Daman, Aleppo Governorate. Food and essential items weighing 5.7 tons were delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,782 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,514.1 tons.

One United Nations humanitarian convoy was assured passage to Tayyibah in Dar'a Governorate. The total weight of cargo delivered was 143 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 385 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 77,196 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Masharah in Qunaytirah Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,501.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/335

Security Council

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18 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlafi, addressed to you, concerning the status of the United Nations offices and specialized agencies in Sana'a, in view of the continuous harassment by Houthi militias of the United Nations offices and staff (see annex).

(*Signed*) Khaled H. **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I would like to pay tribute to the United Nations and to you personally for supporting the peace process in Yemen and overseeing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people. Your efforts have had a direct effect on the response to the humanitarian crisis and helped to alleviate the suffering of Yemenis.

I am writing to you today regarding the situation of the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Sana'a. The Government has previously warned that the Houthi militias are seeking to take control of the operations of United Nations offices, with a view to influencing their activities and forcing them to compromise their operating principles, impartiality, independence and integrity.

The Houthi militias have taken various measures to achieve that goal, including reducing to just three months the period for which United Nations officials can reside in Sana'a. This measure has deprived international civil servants of continuity and stability in their work, and that lack of continuity and stability has affected their ability to perform their duties. This has led to a situation in which there is total reliance on local staff, whom the militias have terrorized, threatened, detained and subjected to enforced disappearance in order to achieve their goal of taking control of the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Yemen. The letter dated 5 March 2018 from the United Nations staff union in Yemen addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, a copy of which was given to us, is quite clear in that regard. This is quite apart from the many violations committed by the militias responsible for the coup and their arbitrary practices with regard to United Nations humanitarian operations. Those violations and practices obligate the United Nations to take a firm position, in order to protect its staff in Yemen and enable the Organization to perform its duties in accordance with its operating principles.

The Yemeni Government is eager for United Nations offices and agencies to continue providing their important services to the Yemeni people throughout the country without exception, while respecting the principles of impartiality, independence and integrity. I should like to reiterate the request of the Yemeni Government to relocate the management of United Nations offices and agencies to areas that have been liberated from the militias that perpetrated the coup, but they should continue their operations in the various governorates of Yemen. Doing so would enable the United Nations to carry out its work, take decisions and assess the situation without pressure from the militias that perpetrated the coup. The Government is fully prepared to provide whatever facilitation is needed to make that happen. Since the start of the war in Yemen, the Government has demonstrated that it is a responsible partner for the United Nations and its offices and agencies at various levels, and that it is eager for the United Nations to continue its work in Yemen in accordance with its operating principles.

We understand very well the concerns that you may have about relocating the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to the liberated areas. The Yemeni Government and the commanders of the coalition to restore the legitimate authorities in Yemen are prepared to sit down with United Nations officials to discuss this matter and find an appropriate solution that would enable the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to continue providing their services to the Yemeni people in accordance with an arrangement that ensures their independence, impartiality and integrity, and the security and safety of international and local United Nations staff who are working in Yemen.

(*Signed*) Abdulmalik **Al-Mikhlafi**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations A/72/831–S/2018/336

General Assembly
Security Council

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17 April 2018
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 6 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I draw your attention to the following:

Israel is continuing its ongoing series of violations of Lebanese sovereignty and of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). On 31 March 2018, Israel violated Lebanese airspace, using an unmanned aerial vehicle armed with four missiles. It subsequently sent a second aerial vehicle to bomb the first aerial vehicle and the site where the latter had crashed on the outskirts of the town of Bayt Yahun in the Bint Jubayl district. A Lebanese Army technical team detonated the four missiles.

Lebanon condemns this dangerous Israeli violation in the strongest possible terms. The international community has repeatedly expressed its condemnation of daily Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace. Such condemnations have been included, inter alia, in the Secretary-General's successive reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). However, this latest violation goes beyond merely demonstrating Israel's continued disregard for the will of the international community and recognized international resolutions. It also represents a dangerous escalation. Having systematically used unmanned aerial vehicles for the purposes of surveillance and spying, Israel has now decided to use unmanned aerial vehicles armed with weapons and missiles.

This development is extremely dangerous. It calls for a resolute position to be taken by the Security Council, and places on the international community a responsibility to do whatever is necessary to put a complete and immediate end to these violations. In that regard, Lebanon reiterates that it will stand by its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty — and its land, airspace and waters — in the face of any Israeli aggression.

Lebanon reiterates that it is in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It reiterates its condemnation of these ongoing, systematic Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty, which reflect the pursuit by Israel of a policy of flagrant disregard for the provisions of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant internationally recognized resolutions. Lebanon takes this opportunity to yet again convey its request to the Security Council — and through the

Security Council to the entire international community — to apply the necessary effective pressure on Israel to cease its violations, comply with resolution 1701 (2006) in its entirety and implement all the provisions thereof without delay. The continued violation by Israel of international laws and resolutions constitutes a clear threat to regional and international security and peace.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/337

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my government, and with reference to my letters dated 3 April 2018, regarding a Houthi maritime terror attack, and dated 26 March 2018, informing of the interception of seven ballistic missiles launched by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia, targeting densely populated civilian areas in four cities, leading to the death of one Egyptian citizen, I am writing to inform you that yesterday, on 11 April 2018, Saudi Air Defence Forces intercepted three ballistic missiles fired by the Houthi militias from inside Yemeni territories (Saadah governorate and Northern Amran governorate). The three aforementioned missiles targeted densely populated civilian areas in the three cities of Riyadh, Najran and Jazan.

Furthermore, on the same day, Saudi Air Defence Forces also successfully downed two unmanned aerial vehicles launched by the Iran-backed Houthi militias from Yemeni territories towards the southern cities of Abha and Jazan respectively. The Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle in Abha was detected by the Saudi Air Defence Force flying towards Abha International Airport; after this unmanned aerial vehicle was neutralized, air navigation was immediately closed in accordance with global aviation laws, then reopened to and from the airport once the situation was deemed to be under control. Specialists examined fragments of the unmanned aerial vehicle and determined that it was a Houthi drone with Iranian features and specifications. The unmanned aerial vehicle intercepted over a civilian landmark in Jazan was determined to be identical to the drone downed at Abha International Airport.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the Security Council to uphold its responsibility towards the maintenance of international peace and security, by condemning these Houthi ballistic missile attacks and Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle violations of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, and by holding the Houthi's Iranian sponsors accountable for furnishing this terrorist non-State group with ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technologies. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and numerous States Members of the United Nations have repeatedly shared insurmountable evidence that proves Iran supports the Houthi terrorist militias, in particular via smuggling ballistic missiles into Yemen to target the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015). The continued escalation of Houthi ballistic missile attacks on my country demonstrates that the Security Council's inability to hold Iran accountable for its violations have sent the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors a clear signal that they should continue to target the Kingdom. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers

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the States that consistently shield Iran from accountability to be as responsible for the escalating Houthi attacks on my country as the Houthis themselves.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also reiterates its call for the swift implementation of the measures agreed upon during the meeting between the leadership of the United Nations verification and inspection mechanism and representatives from the "Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen", regarding increasing inspection measures. This is especially urgent, given that the mechanism's shortcomings have allowed Iran to arm the Houthi militias with ballistic missiles and advanced military equipment, used to launch more than 100 Houthi indiscriminate ballistic missile attacks towards densely populated civilian areas. The mechanism must be strengthened, in order to also prevent the recurrence of these Houthi terrorist attacks that also threaten the safety of maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Mandeb Strait, as illustrated in my letter to you dated 3 April 2018.

Finally, my delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled **Almanzlawiy**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.